

Lesson from COVID-19 and How to Prepare For Future Pandemics

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course

Instructor's Name

Date

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COVID-19 brought unprecedented challenges to the world, leading to widespread illness, loss of life, and economic disruption. Due to the potential threat of future pandemics, we must learn from our experiences with COVID-19 and take steps to prepare for and respond to future outbreaks. Social distancing measures, and prioritizing vaccine development, and distribution, proved effective in combating the pandemic. However, to more efficiently prepare for and react to future pandemics such challenges as global coordination and collaboration, and lack of investment in public health infrastructure should be addressed.

What to do the same

Prioritization of vaccine development, and distribution to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. The effectiveness of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA shots, such as Pfizer/ BioNTech and Moderna, in preventing COVID-19. According to Tenforde et al. (2021), the vaccines effectively prevented hospitalization rates and significantly reduced reported cases. The study showed that the vaccines reduced hospitalization rates by 86%, and even more effectively in the older population over 65 years. These findings emphasize the significance of prioritizing vaccine development and distribution to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the success of the COVID-19 vaccines in reducing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness and death further underlines the importance of investing in vaccine development and distribution.

What to do differently

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of global coordination and collaboration in responding to a pandemic. International cooperation guarantees effective action in protecting the most vulnerable, including the elderly, healthcare workers and people with underlying conditions (Kokudo & Sugiyama, 2020). The authors discuss the impact of the pandemic on the global economy and healthcare systems, highlighting the need for a coordinated global response to combat the virus. This includes the sharing of information and resources among countries and urges the establishment of international networks to facilitate cooperation in pandemic response efforts. Moreover, global collaboration can help address the shortage of medical supplies and equipment and improve access to vaccines and treatments. Thus, a unified global response is crucial to effectively tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent future outbreaks.

Investment in public health infrastructure is essential to effectively respond to future pandemics. There is a need to increase investments in the community healthcare sector including healthcare systems and medical supplies to ensure preparedness for future pandemics response. A study by Bashier et al. (2021) suggests that improving the capacity of healthcare systems, investing in research and development of new treatments and vaccines, and ensuring that adequate supplies of personal protective equipment are available can enhance the ability to respond to pandemics. Therefore, it is critical to invest in research and development of new treatments and vaccines, and ensure public health infrastructure is well-prepared for future pandemics.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the importance of preparedness and collaboration in responding to a pandemic. By continuing to implement effective measures such as vaccine development and distribution, and social distancing and by improving global coordination, investing in public health infrastructure, and learning from past mistakes, we can better prepare for and respond to any future pandemics.

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